

CORRECTIONS CONNECTION

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2017



New Staff Changes

There are some exciting recent staff changes. Mr. Rudy Tisdale will be the new Associate Warden at Lee Correctional effective February 17, 2017. Mr. Tisdale has 26 years of law enforcement, jail and detention center supervision, as well as investigative experience to his new position.

There will also be a new Associate Warden at Perry in Mr. Charles Williams, Jr. Mr. Williams began his career with SCDC in 2002 as a correctional officer at Perry and was most recently a major at Tyger River.

Jessica Lovelace is the agency's new Human Resource Director. She is joining SCDC from the Lieutenant Governor's office.

We congratulate them on their new positions and welcome all new agency hires to SCDC.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Direct from the Director	2
DOJ visits Allendale	3
Lee Culinary Arts	5
Can Do Awards	7
Communications Corner	9

New Year, New Name, New Look

As you can see, the newsletter is looking quite different in 2017. In addition to the new name and format, the newsletter will also be published monthly instead of quarterly. You'll be able to read about the exciting happenings from the previous month, while also looking ahead to the next month's meetings and events. We want the newsletter to be a useful resource for you to hear about what's going on at SCDC. The newsletter will also serve as a platform for you to pose questions or concerns. If you have a question you'd like answered, send the question to Sharpe.Sommer@doc.sc.gov with "newsletter question" as the subject, and it will be answered in next month's issue. The new format is still a work in progress, so

Upcoming Events

- ⇒ **Feb. 22-Warden's Meeting:**
Location-SCDCTA Pavilion;
Time-9am-12pm
- ⇒ **March 17-Last day to register**
for \$10 and a t-shirt for the
8th annual Walk A Mile in
Her Shoes event; you can reg-
ister here:
[http://www.doc.state.sc.us/doc
uments/2017/wam_group_regi
stration_form_012317.pdf](http://www.doc.state.sc.us/documents/2017/wam_group_registration_form_012317.pdf)

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A Word From the Director:

Based on the feedback received during the C.O. focus groups organized by Donna Strong, we are taking steps to improve how we disseminate information. We want to better ensure that all employees are well informed of any SCDC agency news. Communication methods we are considering to alert staff of agency news include: Social media postings, CRT messages, email to work accounts, email to personal accounts, mailings to home addresses, intranet postings, and text message alerts (data rates apply). Please send your choice of preferred method to receive news information to DDO@doc.sc.gov If you have an alternate means of communication to suggest, please send those suggestions to the aforementioned email address as well.

Bryan P. Stutz

SCDC Official Social Media



@SCDCNews



South Carolina Department of Corrections

Character Building at Allendale: A Visit from the DOJ

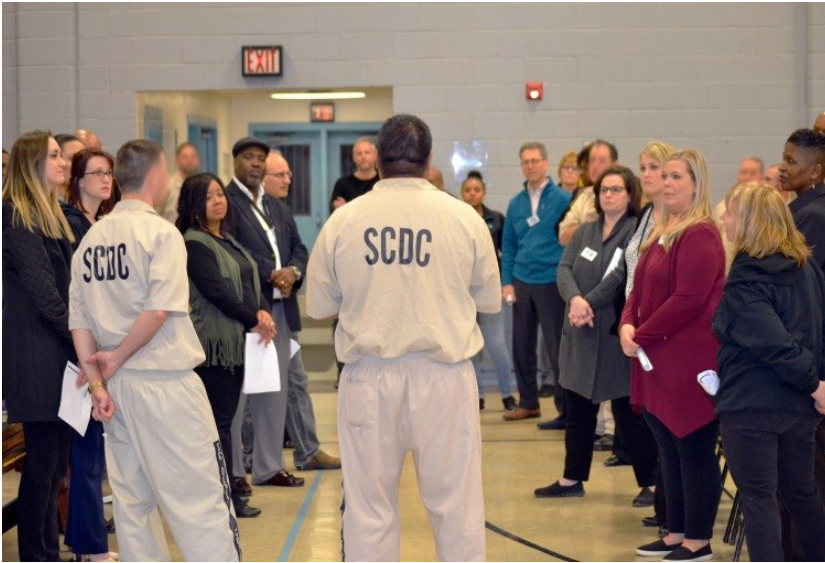
By Sommer Sharpe

Warden John Pate has made substantial improvements to Allendale CI during his six years at the facility. On July 1, 2015, Allendale was designated as SCDC's "Character Institution" spreading Character Housing Unit programs to every dorm. They are cultivating character at Allendale, and no one will tell you that with more certainty than the inmates that inhabit the institution. One of the inmates that participates in the Art 4 Hope program said coming to Allendale gave him a chance to turn his life around, and being involved in the art programs provided him an outlet for expression, which he can share with others. Participants of Art 4 Hope draw, paint, needle-point, and sew, in order to provide crafts, artwork, and stuffed animals to under-privileged children in the Allendale and Barnwell areas. Art 4 Hope is one of several beneficial programs for inmates to participate in at Allendale, which is one reason that Allendale caught the attention of the Department of Justice. More than two dozen DOJ officials visited Allendale on Monday, January 30, 2017. They were in South Carolina to attend a three-day Smart on Crime Reentry and Diversion Seminar in Columbia. Tia Simmons, Reentry & Community Outreach Specialist for the US Attorney's Office in Greenville, said the group's visit to Allendale served many purposes.

"Myself, in addition to several others, continually sing high praises to Allendale for its strong reentry programs, low recidivism rates, and excellent vision from the amazing warden. This visit will present us with an opportunity to see an institution that represents and models a roadmap for what reentry could look like in institutions nationwide," said Simmons.



Allendale DOJ Visit Continued



The visit included tours from the Associate Wardens with significant input from inmates, in which they were able to convey their enthusiasm to take part in such rewarding programs that better themselves while learning new skills or honing already established ones. During the tour, one of the inmates noted grooming program where four-legged members of the Muttmates & Meowmates programs are groomed. Employees can also bring in their animals from home to be groomed. A volunteer comes in to teach the participating inmates the 400 hours of training associated with

this program. A former inmate who took part in the grooming program at Allendale has now maximized that training by turning it into a business with his very own mobile grooming van. The volunteers who tirelessly dedicate their time and effort to sharing their knowledge and skillsets with the inmates at Allendale are the main catalysts for change in the inmates' lives by providing them the opportunity to learn. DOJ officials were able to see the fruits of this labor of learning by witnessing firsthand the positive impact of the many programs offered and utilized at Allendale. There have been over 35,000 hours of volunteer participation and 1.8 million hours of inmate participation in ACI programs. Therefore, it is largely safe to say that ACI has been successful in its mission of "introducing men behind bars to a new way of life by equipping them with the pro-social skills necessary to eliminate the 'prison culture' and develop the character traits necessary to be successful in their community." This goal, along with the overall vision Warden Pate has for his Allendale community, will in turn help create a safer, more efficient, and meaningful environment for the inmates while they are incarcerated so that they may reenter society as improved individuals. The DOJ's visit to Allendale seemed to be the highlight of their visit to South Carolina, and it's not hard to see why. The betterment of the lives of the inmates at ACI is a tangible representation of what it means to strive to make a meaningful change, not just for the staff, inmates, and volunteers while the inmates are incarcerated, but for the community upon their release. Officials from the DOJ hope to return to their respective homes across the country to share what they learned at their seminar, and especially at Allendale.



Warden Pate echoed their sentiment saying, "We look forward to a continuing relationship with DOJ as we all seek the same goal: to better prepare offenders for re-entry into society by giving the offenders a real and viable alternative to reoffending."

Lee CI Begins Culinary Arts Program

By Clark Newsom

For some time, Lee Correctional Institution Warden Cecilia Reynolds has dreamed of starting a culinary arts program that could train and prepare inmates at SCDC to work in the restaurant business. She had previously done consulting work for the National Institute of Corrections in Massachusetts where she observed how well that state's Department of Corrections' culinary arts training program was faring with inmates. She began taking steps to get such a program started a little over two years ago while serving as warden at Kershaw Correctional Institution. It was then that she received the opportunity to move to Lee CI to become their new warden. Reynolds accepted that challenge and also took the culinary arts idea with her.

On Tuesday, January 17, 2017, Warden Reynolds saw her dream begin to turn into reality as the Lee CI culinary arts program officially started with the serving of its first meals in the program's new "restaurant" inside the institution's Restricted Housing Unit (RHU).



Lee CI Warden Cecilia Reynolds enjoys a chicken salad sandwich, fries, pickle and homemade cookies prepared by the program.

"Deputy Director McCall supported the culinary arts idea and Programs and Services' Deputy Director Sandy Barrett arranged for us to put it under the Palmetto Unified School District's vocational education program," stated Warden Reynolds. "My home church (Elmwood Avenue Church of God in Columbia) donated a gas stove to get us started, and we obtained some State Surplus items and are getting some of the old cafeteria items from Lower Savannah Pre-Release Center which is now closed." PUSD has provided some initial grant funding for supplies to get the program off the ground, and the anticipation is it will become self-supporting through the sale of meals.

Employees at Lee CI or from any other SCDC institution visiting may purchase meals Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of each week by calling 803-896-2487. The cost is \$5.00 and includes an entrée, sides, dessert and a beverage. Since cash is not allowed to be used for this program, employees must have credit added to their SCDC ID cards which will be scanned for each meal. The institution can do that for the employee through their business office. You are advised to allow for a week for the balance to show up on your card, and you must order your meal by 10:00AM from the restaurant the day you are purchasing it. Some of the food items on the menu will include chicken salad, pulled pork, shrimp, Cajun fish, Panko crusted chicken breast, coleslaw, sweet potato fries, and homemade chocolate chip cookies.

Lee Culinary Arts Continued

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Reynolds was able to hire Mike Jones, a successful and well respected restaurateur from the Camden and Sumter area, to come on board as instructor and operator of the program. Adequate space was chosen inside the facility’s RHU to serve as the center of operations. The warden explained that the facility is treated just as any restaurant in the state would be meaning it had to pass inspection from the State Department of Health and Environmental Control and the local fire marshal before



Jones selected six inmates to serve as his technical assistants in getting the operation under way. PUSD has worked closely with Jones in developing a curriculum that hopes to train inmates to be successful in all areas of the restaurant business. Students will receive vocational education certificates upon completion of their

training to verify their ability to a potential employer. It is hoped that ten to 15 students can be enrolled and ready for the first classes in about a month.

“We would like to enroll a mix of short-term and long-term inmates,” said Warden Reynolds. “Obviously we hope to get those with short term sentences employed before they are released. Inmates with long-term sentences, once trained, may also help SCDC fill food service needs at Lee and some of our other institutions around the state.”



Can Do Club Awards

By: Mindy McManus
(803-896-1744)

The **Can Do Club Program** and the **Character First Program** were combined in an effort to recognize employees, not only for their positive attitudes and quality of work, but also for exhibiting good character. Check with your Can Do Club Coordinator for help with giving an award. Headquarters employees can check with Mindy McManus in room 304.

The Can Do Club Award is still given to individuals or groups. Supervisors are encouraged to give this award to their employees, and visa versa, anytime an individual is caught doing something right or exhibiting good character.

Two **Can Do Spirit Awards** per year can be given by an employee who has been with the Agency for at least six months. Spirit Awards are not meant to be given to immediate supervisors or to employees you directly supervise. Remember, only one person can sign a Spirit Award. This award is to be given to one employee who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to make YOUR job easier.

So let's show our appreciation to our co-workers by giving them a Can Do Club or Spirit Award. Also, please remember to send copies of all awards to Mindy McManus in HQ room 304 so they can be publicized.

Please remember when making copies, print names if signatures are not legible and please print division or institution beside the giver and the recipient.

Awards given for the month of **November 2016** listed below:

CAN DO CLUB AWARDS

Broad River Correctional Institution

Sgt. George Frazier; Linda Brown; Ofc. John Brown; Ofc. Calvin Grubbs Jr.; Diane Holzmann; Crystal Huggins; Sgt. John Williams; Maj. Alvin Graber Jr. (Warden Dennis Bush) Clarence Mattress; Ofc. Brandon Brown; Sgt. Reinaldo Chacon; Cpl Roosevelt Gillyard (Paul Dennis)

Camille Griffin Graham Correctional Institution

Everett Manning (Lt. Iris Chambers)

Kershaw Correctional Institution

Channing Jordan (Kevin Feint) Sgt. Tracy Sims; Ofc. Jeremiah Pegram; Ofc. James Jackson (Lt. Melissa Williams) Cpl. Leslie Schnettler; Ofc. Tanisha Mungo; Ofc. Karen Jordan; Ofc. Barbara Lewis-Bethea; Ofc. Charles Brown; Kevin Feint (Lt. Hunt & Lt. Hunter)

Manning Correctional Institution

Maquita Hinson (Randy Reagan) Lydia Claytor, Jasmine Willis, OFC. Lydia Goodwin (Nena Staley)

Can Do Club Awards Continued

Awards given for the month of **December 2016** listed below:

CAN DO CLUB AWARDS

Allendale Correctional Institution

Ofc. Shaniqua Duncan; Ofc. Autumn Vanbrown; Ofc. Joseph Elmore; Cpl. Jennie Murray; Jonathan McMillan; Ofc. Courtney Ferguson (Lt. Sammuel Drayton)

Broad River Correctional Institution

Ofc. Julliette Pate; Ofc. Dwayne Johnson; Sgt. Tiffany Williams (Sgt. Alicia Smith) Sgt. Ashley Thomas (Gregory Washington)

Kershaw Correctional Institution

Ofc. James Jackson; Sgt. Calvin Mackins; Ofc. Jessica Sims; Ofc. Matthew Pelfrey; Sgt. Randall Brown; Sgt. Marcus Russell (Lt. Ernesta Pierre) Ofc. Don Miller (Tina Stahlman) Ofc. Jessica Sims; Ofc. Tod Smith; Ofc. Veronica Wallace; Ofc. Paul Roberts; Ofc. Lottie Butler; Cpl. Kenneth Hall; Cpl. Tiffany Campbell; Cpl. Matthew Davis (Sgt. Marcus Russell)

Manning Correctional Institution

Sgt. Loreto DelaCruz; Maj. James Cooper; Lt. Charles Broxton; Sgt. Reinaldo Chacon; Sgt. Juan Estrada; Capt. Timothy Burnell (Warden Nena Staley & Maj. Wilfredo Martrell)

Ridgeland Correctional Institution

Jerome Smith (A/W Yvonne Smith) Lt. Michael Lang; Lt. Velma Howard; Lt. Ronald McNeil; Lt. Melinda Green; Lt. Albert Housey Jr.; Lt. James Walker (Maj. Consonya M. Washington)

Tiger River Correctional Institution

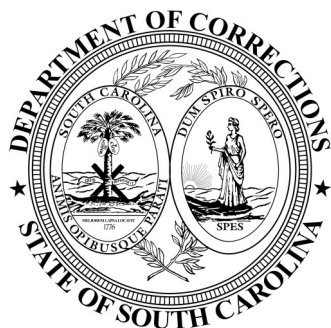
Ofc. Bobby Samples; Ofc. Stacey Strickland; Sgt. Harold McCormick; Sgt. Jennifer Bruce; Ofc. Lisa Simpson; Sgt. David Powell; Sgt. Jacob Johnson; Cpl. Ashley Rice; Sgt. Matthew Bender; Cpl. Adam Wyatt; Ofc. Cory Sanders; Sgt. Michael Murff (Lt. Christopher Elmore); Lt. Jermaine Burrison; Sgt. Brenda Davis; Sgt. David Ford; Sgt. Tyrone Glenn; Sgt. Tony Hall; Dgt. Ronald Kingdon; Sgt. Randy McKendrick; Sgt. Alexander Eubanks; Cpl. Mickey Fleming; Cpl. Michael House; Cpl. Robert McCauley; Ofc. Joel Karazewski; Ofc. Allen Nobles; Ofc. Thomas Stokes; Ofc. Victoria Suber; Ofc. Ethan Waldrop; Ofc. Christopher Villarreal; Lt. Antoine Stephens; Lt. Adam Fisher; Cpl. Kermit Whitener (Lt. Grady Carson) Ofc. Cory Sanders (Lt. Adam Bradburn)

If you need Can Do Spirit or Club Awards, please contact Mindy McManus at: 896-1744 or by email at Mcmanus.mindy@doc.sc.gov. If you need to send a mainframe message, the user ID is "c013509"

South Carolina Department of
Corrections

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Columbia, SC 29210

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COMMUNICATIONS CORNER

Corrections Connection is a monthly publication of the Communications Department at the South Carolina Department of Corrections. Story ideas and photographs are welcome along with comments and suggestions and should be sent to Sommer Sharpe at Sharpe.Sommer@doc.sc.gov or Clark Newsom at Newsom.Clark@doc.sc.gov.

This edition and all archived copies are available on the agency intranet at “**Agency News.**” The monthly newsletter is also available to the public via our internet site, www.doc.sc.gov, under **News.**



Quick Questions

Email a question to Sharpe.Sommer@doc.sc.gov with the subject “newsletter question” to see your question answered here in the next issue! Your submitted questions will be anonymously answered and published.



SCDC Goes Red for Women February 3, 2017